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SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Tuesday, July 25, 2006 Noon
Date/Time of Occurrence: Sunday, July 23, 2006
Nature of Event: Two Hikers Found After Two Nights in Wilderness
Location of Call: Foresthill
Released by: Dena Erwin (530) 889-6922

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

Two hikers reported missing Sunday walked into Foresthill this morning and are in good condition despite enduring searing mountain temperatures.

John Axtel, 46, and his girlfriend Kongrith Kulwadee, 37, went for a day hike to High Loch Leven Lake, near the Big Bend ranger station Sunday. A friend reported them missing Sunday night.

The Placer County Sheriff Department's search and rescue teams began searching the rugged mountain area Monday morning for the Nevada couple until a surveying crew ran into them outside of Foresthill, near Sailor's Flat Tuesday morning. Axtel, an experienced outdoorsman, told rescuers that they missed a trail and ended up at the American River. Neither of them was injured. Their dog was "worn out" and had to be carried for part of the long hike, rescuers said.

More than 70 people were involved in the search, including personnel from the state of California's Office of Emergency Services, and El Dorado, Sacramento, Nevada, Yuba and Marin counties.